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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/603,323	06/26/2000	Fang Sun	1179/2/2	3143
29739	7590	02/04/2004	EXAMINER	
SMITH MOORE LLP P.O. BOX 21927 GREENSBORO, NC 27420			RAJGURU, UMAKANT K	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1711		/

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/603,323	SUN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Umakant K. Rajguru	1711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent-term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL.                  2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

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1. An RCE and an amendment have been filed on July 14, 2003
2. Claims under examination are 1-6.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
  
4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun et al (US 6124391) in view of Dahmen et al (US 5409771).

Please refer to office action mailed on January 28, 2002 for this rejection.

It is noted that there is a difference in the processes of making the claimed water sorptive product. Prior art process makes the (claimed) web, which is actually absorbent article in various forms as, disclosed in SUN, col. 7, lines 52-65. The web comprises a superabsorbent (SAP) polymer and a fiber as filler (disclosed by Dahmen). The SAP is ~~first neutralized and then mixed with fiber. Instant~~ claim 1 requires that the SAP is first mixed with fiber and then the said mixture is neutralized.

Instant claims 1-6 are directed to a product and not to a process. A comparison of the claimed process with the prior art process does not serve to resolve the issue concerning the patentability of the product. It is the examiner's position that the product of prior art reads on the one encompassed by instant claims, in spite of the difference between the processes of making those two products. Applicants have not presented any evidence to establish that the two products are different from each other.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to U. K. Rajguru whose telephone number is 703-308-

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3224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck, can be reached on (703)308-2462. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9310/9311.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

*URK*  
U.K. Rajguru/lap

December 15, 2003

*Ralon Sargent*  
RABON SERGENT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER